

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 0709

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT YO

SUBJ: REPORTS OF DECEMBER NATIONALIST DEMONSTRATIONS  
IN PRISTINA

REF: BELGRADE 0211

1. REFTEL NOTES PRESS REPORTS OF SIZABLE DEMONSTRAIONS  
BY ALBANIAN NATIONALIST ELEMENTS IN PRISTINA IN DECEMBER.  
TWO AMERICAN INSTRUCTORS AT PRISTINA UNIVERSITY, REPORTED  
SITE OF DEMONSTRATIONS, HAVE RECENTLY TALKED TO EMBOFFS.  
BOTH INDICATE "DEMONSTRAIONS" WERE CONFINED PRIMARILY TO  
SLOGAN-PAINTING INSIDE ONE OR TWO STUDENT DORMITORIES  
AND DID NOT INVOLVE LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS. BOTH WERE  
UNAWARE OF STREET DISTURBANCES OF ANY KIND, OR OF ANY  
ACTIVITY OUTSIDE DORMITORY BUILDINGS.

2. ONE INSTRUCTOR NOTED IMMEDIATE REACTION OF ALBANIAN  
STUDENTS WAS TO BLAME SLOGANS ON SERB PROVOCATEURS TRYING  
TO MAKE TROUBLE FOR ALBANIANS, WHEREAS SERBS IMMEDIATELY  
BEGAN CITING INCIDENT AS EVIDENCE OF ALBANIAN NATIONALISM.

3. ESSENTIALLY SAME VERSION OF "DEMONSTRATIONS" WAS  
REPORTEDLY GIVEN TO AP CORRESPONDENT HERE BY LC MEMBER ON  
UNIVERSITY FACULTY IN EARLY JANUARY.

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4. COMMENT: TWO INSTRUCTORS AND LC MEMBER ARE VIRTUALLY ONLY PRIMARY SOURCES SO FAR ON PRISTINA HAPPENINGS. ON THIS BASIS WE BELIEVE THIS VERSION OF STORY IS PROBABLY CORRECT AND THAT NEWS REPORTS WERE CONSIDERABLY EXAGGERATED.

5. BUT THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF CONTINUING SERB-ALBANIAN DIVISIONS IN KOSOVO. AT THE UNIVERSITY THE ABOVE INSTRUCTORS NOTED ALMOST COMPLETE SEGREGATION OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, ALBANIAN PRIDE IN THEIR EXPANDING INFLUENCE AND DECREASING IMPORTANCE OF SERB MINORITY IN KOSOVO, AND AWARENESS AMONG BOTH ALBANIANS AND SERBS OF HIGH ALBANIAN BIRTH RATE AND INCREASING STATISTICAL IMPORTANCE OF ALBANIAN MINORITY IN COUNTRY AS A WHOLE.

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## Message Attributes

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